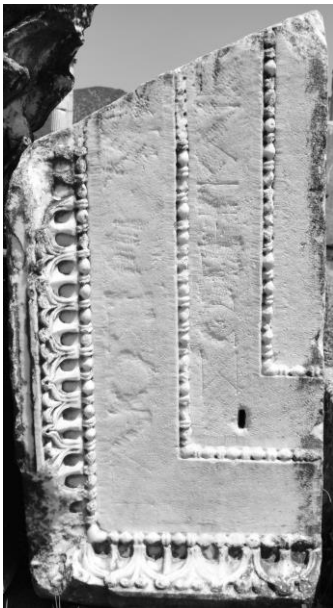


**Classical Antiquity and its Heritage**  
**and the Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity (C-SAC)**  
Joint Research Seminar

**Anna Sitz, Heidelberg**

## Making and **Erasing** the Gods: The Modification of Pagan Inscriptions in Late Antiquity (4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Century)



Late Romans continued the older practice of *damnatio memoriae* – the official ‘condemnation of memory’ enacted against the images and inscriptions of unpopular emperors or officials. But numerous unofficial erasures can also be found on inscriptions, particularly in Asia Minor, the region under investigation. These modifications often entailed the removal of the names of the old Hellenic gods and sometimes that of their adherents. The phenomenon is more complex than simple early Christian fanaticism against paganism, however, and current epigraphic conventions for publishing erasures frequently fail to capture the finer points of these modifications. As was the case with the editing or destruction of ancient statues, context was key. Textual and archaeological evidence for modes of reading ancient inscriptions in late antiquity offers new insight on these erasures and their potential to generate, rather than obscure, information about the pagan past.

**Wednesday 1 April 15.15-17**

Location: Antikmuseet

**Organisers:**

Troels Myrup Kristensen and Jakob Engberg

[tmk@cas.au.dk](mailto:tmk@cas.au.dk)